Application No.: 10/773,558 **Docket No.: JCLA13083**

AMENDMENTS

In the Drawings:

Please replace the pages of FIGs. 5B, 5C and 11-13 with the replacement sheets.

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for FIGs. 5B, 5C and 11-13 should be designated by "Prior Art", and the listing of references in the specification was consider as an improper information disclosure statement (IDS). Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Shibazaki et al. (US 6,379,049, hereinafter as Shibazaki) and claims 5 and 7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibazaki. The Office Action also objected to claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 as being dependent upon rejected claims, but said that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 by adding the feature of claim 2, and have cancelled claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 that would be the same as claims 1, 3, 5 and 7, respectively, after the above amendment is made. Reconsideration of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Amendments to Drawings, and IDS

Applicant has amended FIGs. 5B, 5C and 11-13 by designating a legend "Prior Art" to each figure, therefore respectfully requesting withdrawal of the objection. Meanwhile, Applicant has submitted an information disclosure sheet in a separate paper according to MPEP § 609.04(a).

Discussions of Rejections to Claims 1, 3, 5 & 7 and Objections to Claims 2, 4, 6 & 8

The Office Action mentioned that claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 being objected to would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has noted that the result of *adding the feature of claim 2 into independent claim 1 and canceling claims 2, 4, 6 and 8* is entirely the same as the result of *rewriting claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 in independent form and canceling claims 1, 3, 5 and 7.* Therefore, Applicant has added the feature of claim 2 into independent claim 1 and canceled claims 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Applicant also respectfully points out the differences between this invention and Shibazaki as follows.

It is noted that Shibazaki discloses a tapered roller bearing, while this invention discloses a cylindrical roller bearing. With respect to the contact mode of the end surface of the roller and the flange surface of the inner ring, the present invention and Shibazaki are basically different.

Specifically, Shibazaki discloses that the end surface of the tapered roller has a spherical surface and the end surface of the tapered roller comes in point contact with the flange surface of the inner ring. Therefore, the pressure at the contact surface is large to cause heat generation and wear at the contact portion. On the contrary, this invention discloses that the curved portion (3d) of the end surface of the cylindrical roller comes in contact with the flange surface of the inner ring. Therefore, the pressure at the contact surface is small so that little heat generation and wear are caused at the contact portion.

For at least the above reasons, amended claim 1 and claims 3, 5 and 7 dependent therefrom define over the prior art and are allowable according to the Office Action.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that pending claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS

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Annotated Marked-up drawing

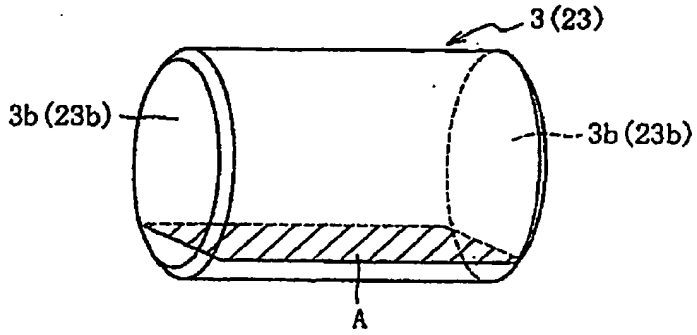

FIG. 5A

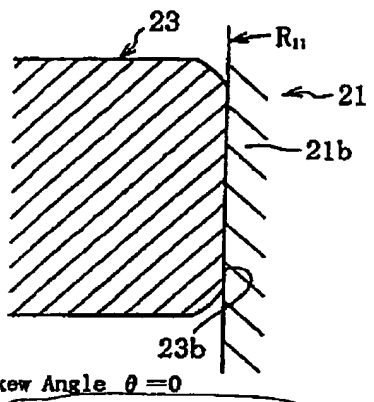

FIG. 5B (PRIOR ART)

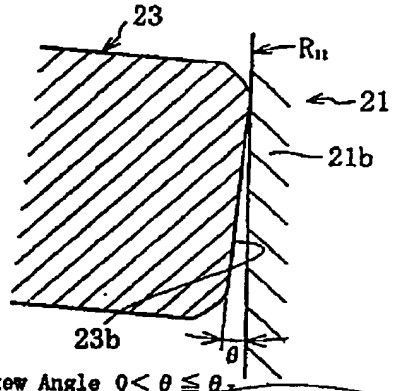

FIG. 5C (PRIOR ART)

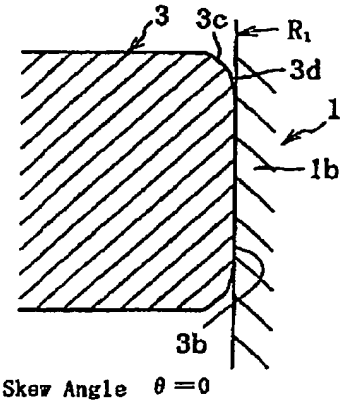

FIG. 5D

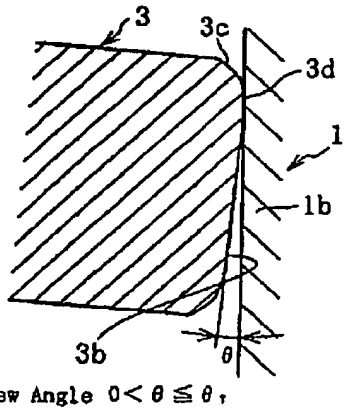

FIG. 5E

Annotated Marked-up drawing

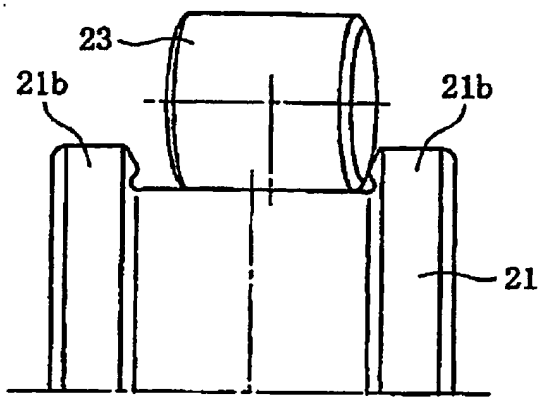

FIG. 10

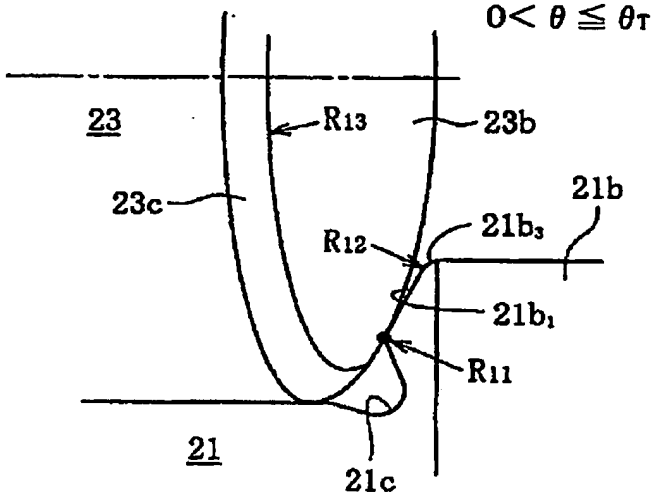

FIG. 11 (PRIOR ART)

Annotated Marked-up drawing

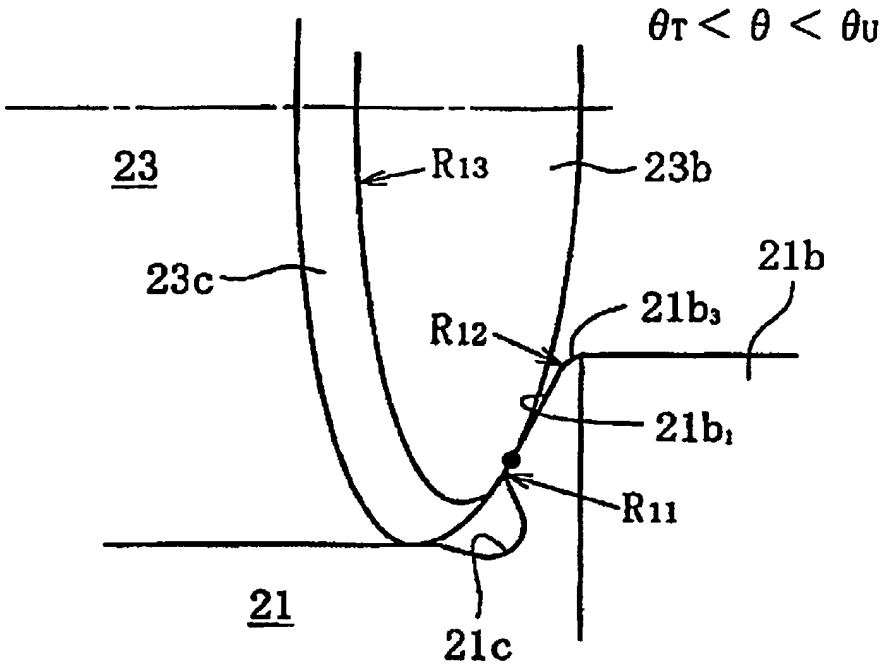

FIG. 12(PRIOR ART)

Annotated Marked-up drawing

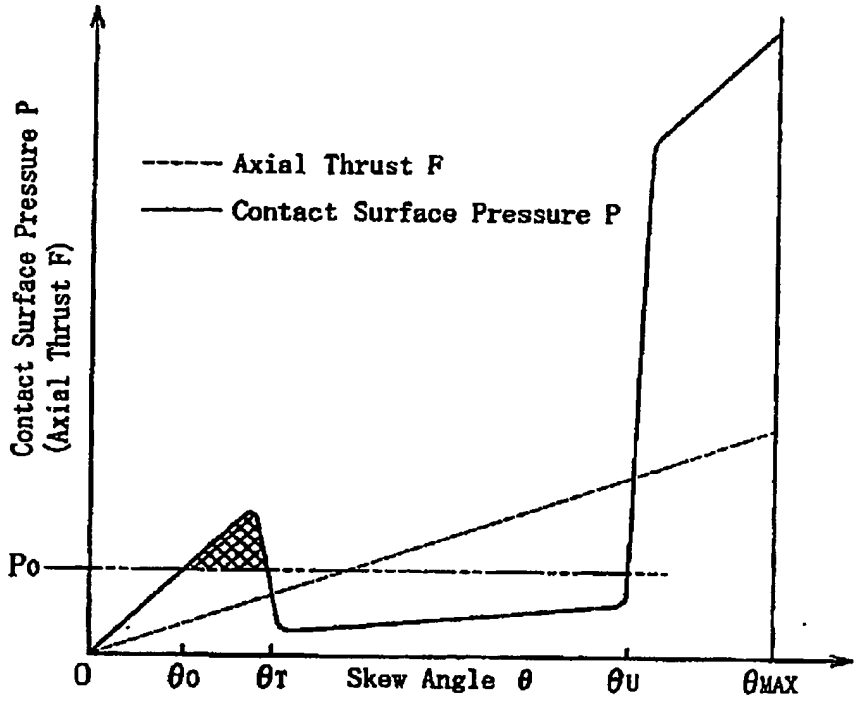

FIG. 13 (PRIOR ART)